



# MN Leadership Council on Aging

February 29, 2024

Honorable Members of the Senate Human Services Committee  
Room 1200 Minnesota Senate Building

On behalf of the undersigned members of the MN Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in support of SF 3575 (Maye Quade)**, which provides ongoing funding for the needed caregiver respite services Minnesotans require.

As trusted organizations in our state's aging sector, we endorse policy solutions designed to advance our shared mission of creating communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota.

As we age, everyone in our state will be better served if caregivers have access to respite services, allowing them to take much-needed breaks from their caregiving duties to recharge, to leave their home for errands such as grocery shopping, to seek medical attention, or to deal with other life responsibilities. During their time away from caregiving, people need the peace of mind to know that their person is getting care in a safe environment.

We're all aging. All our families and communities are dealing with the very real challenges of caregiving. We appreciate your responsibility to create ongoing policy solutions that support our state in this journey. On behalf of our members, all aging Minnesotans, and their caregivers, I ask for your support of SF 3575.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging Delegates,  
The Honorable Senator Erin K. Maye Quade

*Minnesota Leadership  
Council on Aging is a  
champion, thought  
leader, planner, and  
educator that  
advances positive  
system change for  
older adults, families,  
and caregivers. We are  
focused on creating  
communities and  
systems that support  
aging with dignity and  
a spirit of well-being in  
Minnesota.*

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## **Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging**

Delegates supporting the *respite* legislation in SF 3575 (Maye Quade):

Cathy McLeer, *State Director*  
**AARP Minnesota**

Robert Freeman, *Vice President, Public Policy*  
**Alzheimer's Association MN/ND**

Kimelyn Knight, *Director of Aging Services*,  
**Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**

Toby Pearson, *President and CEO*  
**Care Providers of Minnesota**

Patricia McArdle, *Director of Aging and Disability Services*,  
**Catholic Charities Twin Cities**

Ann Bailey, *President*, **DARTS**

Katey Zanotelli-Wade, *Senior Director of Aging and Economic Security*,  
**East Side Neighborhood Services**

Beth Wiggins, *Director of Caregiving and Aging Services*,  
**FamilyMeans**

James Falvey, *Executive Director*  
**Friends & Co.**

Ruth Hampton Olkon, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Jewish Family Services of St. Paul**

Kari Thurlow, *President and CEO*  
**LeadingAge Minnesota**

Kristin Rigg, *Executive Director*  
**Living at Home Network**

Tory Merhar, *Associate Vice President of Older Adults*  
**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**

Patrick Rowan, *Executive Director*  
**Meals on Wheels**

Jarrold Peterson, *Public Policy Chair/President*  
**Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association and St. Paul Senior Workers Association**

Dawn Simonson, *President and CEO*, **Trellis Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

Paula Woischke, *Director*, **Whitney Senior Ctr. Minnesota Association of Senior Services**

George Schoephoerster, *Past President*  
**MN Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians**

Amanda Vickstrom, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

Heidi Holste, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Gerontological Society**

Kathy Messerli, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Home Care Association**

David Blomquist, *Interim Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care**

Phil Duran, *Senior Advocate, Aging and Gender Care Access*, **Rainbow Health**

Deb Taylor, *CEO*, **Senior Community Services**

Jane Pederson, *Chief Medical Quality Officer*  
**Stratis Health**

Rajean Moone, *LTC Administration Faculty and Associate Director of Policy*, **University of Minnesota Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation**

Vickie Snyder, *Chair, Board of Directors*  
**Vital Aging Network**

Julie Manworren, *President and CEO*  
**Volunteers of America – MN and WI**

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